

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 696
By Davidson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mrs. Ruby Nevil Covington for her meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as public servants and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mrs. Ruby Nevil Covington of Robertson County, an outstanding community leader and activist, who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous ways; and

WHEREAS, the oldest daughter of James Reuben Nevil and Leona May Botts Nevil, Ruby Nevil Covington was born on August 16, 1922, near Trimble, Tennessee in Obion County and grew up on the farm and in the small hamlets of West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after finishing high school in Obion County, "Miss Ruby" was sent by the National Youth Administration to Dyer County to aide the home economics teacher prior to enrolling at Austin Peay Normal School. Studying at Austin Peay for over a year, she went to work for the Western Union Telegraph Company as World War II started; and

WHEREAS, named the head of the Springfield branch of Western Union at the end of the war, Miss Ruby met her future husband, James Jones Covington, when he walked into her office on October 18, 1946. The couple married six weeks later and traveled extensively during their first sixteen years together due to his job in pipeline construction; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, the Covingtons purchased land in eastern Robertson County in the Cross Plains community, making it their permanent home. Quickly becoming involved in her community, Miss Ruby started Girl Scout Troop 583 and became an active and faithful member of the Cross Plains United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, respected and admired by her community, Miss Ruby served on the committee to incorporate the City of Cross Plains and later as the first city manager. She provided the key leadership of the seven member Citizens Hospital Review Committee in 1987 that supported the proposal to develop a modern medical center for Robertson County that led to the establishment of NorthCrest Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, an affirmed history buff, Miss Ruby is the retired librarian and volunteer archivist at Cross Plains Museum, Library and Archives. Her love of the history of Cross Plains was shared by her late husband, James Covington, and together they helped start the Cross Plain Heritage Commission in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the first settlement in Robertson County, the City of Cross Plains celebrates its annual Fourth of July event, "Kilgore Remembrance Day," honoring Thomas Kilgore, the first permanent settler, due to the work of Miss Ruby and her late husband, who also co-founded the well-known annual Trash and Treasure yard sale in 1987; and

WHEREAS, an active historical researcher, Miss Ruby still shares her love of her beautiful community and its rich history as co-founder and current co-editor of the "Eastern Robertson County Historical Quarterly"; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ruby's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ruby is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, she is most thankful for the love and companionship she shared with her late husband, James "Jay" Covington for 54 years, is the proud parent of daughter, Jama Nevil Covington Wright and doting grandmother of James Nelson "Jay" Wright; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mrs. Ruby Nevil Covington for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mrs. Ruby Nevil Covington for her
meritorious service to the State of Tennessee as a community leader, historian and activist, and
extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.